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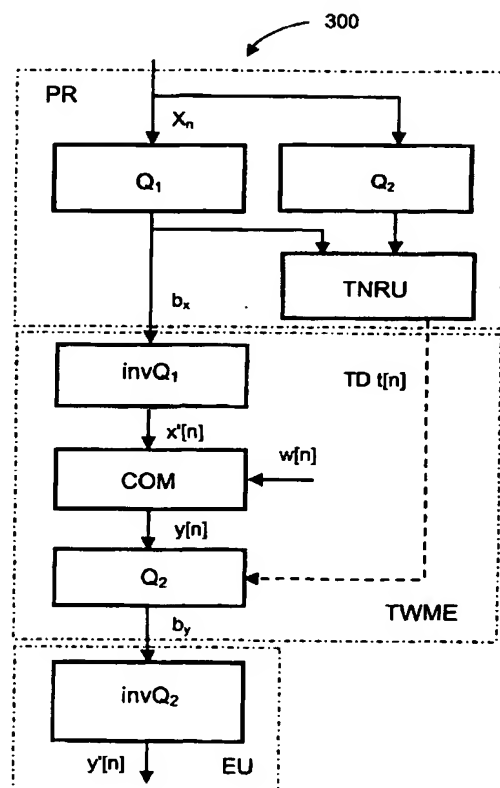
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(54) Title: **METHOD OF BIT STREAM PROCESSING**



(57) Abstract: The invention concerns a method of bit stream watermarking in a tandem coding system (300). The method involves arranging for the system (300) to comprise a series of stages including a first quantizing unit for processing an input signal to generate a first intermediate signal, a combining unit for embedding a watermarking signal into the intermediate signal to generate a second intermediate signal, and a second quantizing unit for processing the second intermediate signal to generate a watermarked output signal. The first quantizing unit is arranged to include a unit for predicting distortions arising in subsequent stages of the system (300) and generating one or more corresponding quantization noise reduction parameters. Moreover, the system (300) is operable to apply the one or more reduction parameters in at least one of the subsequent stages for reducing noise and/or distortion arising within the system (300).



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